



File Code: 2210

Date: April 15, 2011

Grant H. Lloyd  
2907 Wood Canyon Road  
Soda Springs, ID 83276

Dear Grant;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Lanes Creek Horse Allotment**. These operating instructions are a guide for management on this allotment during the 2011 grazing season. We have also included your **Actual Use Form** which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by November 30, 2011.

**Permitted Livestock: 4 horses for the season of 6/6-10/5**

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

Time allowed in each unit will be based on distribution of livestock and utilization of key areas. If riparian or upland monitoring show that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will be moved to the next unit. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**

**Special Instructions**

This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it

**Riparian Guidelines for Grazing**

Three measurements are commonly used to monitor livestock grazing impacts in riparian areas. They include stubble height, woody utilization, and key species utilization. Allowable disturbance levels will be tailored to each stream. Measurements will be performed in key areas along the riparian habitat. The following list describes the parameters, where the measurements occur, and how they will be analyzed:



1. Stubble height is the height of standing herbaceous vegetation at the time of measurement. Some species may not naturally grow to the allowed stubble height. Natural conditions such as drought may also reduce some plants growth. If these situations are extreme, the stubble height measurement may not be used. The measurement is the average height of the plant and is measured at the green line (adjacent to the water) and on the floodplain.
2. Woody species utilization is the use of the annual growth of woody species within the riparian area (willows, aspen, dogwood, etc.) by livestock and wildlife. Emphasis will be placed on measuring the individual plants closest to the stream bank. Utilization is measured by counting the number of leaders browsed (new shoots) as compared to the number of the leaders not browsed.
3. Key species utilization is the percent of key species grazed in the affected riparian area. Key species that will be monitored include beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), smallwing sedge (*Carex microptera*), and water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*). Sampling methods will include utilization cages, Photographic Guide for Key Riparian Graminoids (INT-GTR-308), and ocular estimates using Region 4 Key Forage Plant Method (FSH 2209.21).

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ from Grazing Implementation Guide, (GIG))

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

The first number represents the percent of total weight of key species. The second number represents the height of standing riparian vegetation at the time of measurement.

### Upland Utilization Guidelines

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on stubble height and percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring will include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. **Use on key grass species** such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia* (*Agropyron*) *spicata*), and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or **key shrub species** such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*).

Vegetation Component	Allowable Percent Utilization
Grasses and Herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	35

## **Wolf Recovery Management:**

As read on the Idaho Fish and Game web site 2/17/11  
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>

### **Current Legal Status**

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule.

Simply put, the 10(j) rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

### **Permittee Responsibilities**

1. *Salting* - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads, or areas where livestock normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use.
2. *Herding* - Effective and frequent riding is a good method of achieving uniform forage utilization and extending use in riparian areas.
3. *Weed-free hay* - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified "weed free".
4. *Maintaining Improvements* - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on the Lanes Creek Allotment will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to livestock entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

## **Fence Maintenance Standards**

### Wire

- Broken wires should be spliced or replaced. Wire spacing and height should be consistent with the original construction.
- Loose wire should be restretched. Damaged clips and stays need to be replaced. Wire that is breaking frequently should be replaced.

### Posts

- Damaged and rotted wood posts will be replaced. Posts that have been pushed over by snow or wire tension need to be reset.
- Bent steel posts need to be straightened or replaced.

### Braces

- Loose or missing brace wires need to be tightened or replaced.
- Damaged or rotten brace posts will be replaced. Straighten and reset any posts that have settled or are crooked.

### Let-Down Fences

- Let-down fences will be put up before the beginning of the grazing season and taken down at the end of the grazing season.
- The let-down design of the fence will be maintained. Retighten let-down spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

## **Water Development Maintenance Standards**

### Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.
- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

### Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in every water trough, contact your Forest range manager to obtain these ramps.

### Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

### **Forms to be Completed**

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2011.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	<b>Office</b>	<b>Cell</b>
<b>Jack Isaacs District Ranger</b>	208) 547-4356	
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328
<b>Garth Nelson Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1113 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7910

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Sincerely,

*/S/ JACK ISAACS*

JACK L. ISAACS  
District Ranger

**Annual Operating Instructions  
Soda Springs Ranger District  
Lanes Creek C&H Allotment  
2011**



**Accepted By:**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Grant Lloyd**

\_\_\_\_\_/4/22/11\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Approved By:**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jack L Isaacs**  
**District Ranger**

\_\_\_\_\_/4/22/2011\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



# Lanes Creek Horse Allotment

